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RNR 229

MIDEAST-DEFENSE

DAMASCUS, AUG 12, REUTER - PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA TODAY APPOINTED TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND A NEW CHIEF OF STAFF.

A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE APPOINTED THE CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJOR-GENERAL YUSSEF SHAKYUF, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL NAJI JAMIL, AS DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTERS. MAJOR-GENERAL MIKMAT SHEHABI WAS NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF.

MAJOR-GENERAL SHEHABI HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE WENT TO WASHINGTON FOR THE MILITARY TALKS WHICH LED TO A SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

MEANWHILE, A GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID PRESIDENT ASSAD'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPFUS, WAS NOW SCHEDULED FOR AN UNDISCLOSED DATE IN MID-AUGUST.

PRESIDENT ASSAD AND MARSHAL TITO ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

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